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NOPIMING
PROVINCIAL • PARK

INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Manitoba
Natural Resources
Parks

INTERIM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

FOR

NOPIMING PROVINCIAL PARK

NOVEMBER 1988

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NOPIMING PROVINCIAL PARK

This second revised document contains guidelines for the management and development of the park for that period until a management plan is approved. A cautious, conservation-based approach is taken, to preserve park resources and future park use options. No major changes in land use are proposed, nor will the guidelines permit same. These guidelines will be employed by Parks Branch to review and make decisions upon development proposals forthcoming from government and the private sector alike.

This document is subject to annual review or at more frequent intervals and revision as appropriate, determined at the discretion of the Director of Parks.

C. G. Prouse

Approved: C. Gordon Prouse
Director of Parks

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Pending formulation of a Management Plan for Nopiming Provincial Park (proposed to start in 1990), the Parks Branch has established guidelines for resource conservation and protection, improvement and development of recreational facilities and the ongoing commercial use of the park's resources. A brief description of the role and purpose of Nopiming within the Provincial Park System and discussion of current park use issues and concerns (e.g. aircraft operations, remote cabins, impact of vacation lot regulations, backcountry boat caches, garbage) precede the management guidelines. A list of objectives sets targets to be achieved by the guidelines.

Interim management guidelines for Nopiming were first approved in 1982. They were based on information and land use existing at that time. They were revised in 1984 as additional information became available. The interim guidelines set the limits for park development and use prior to management plan completion. No major new development or land use commitments will be accommodated.

2.0 PARK PURPOSES/ROLES

According to the Manitoba Park System Plan, Nopiming Provincial Natural Park "provides a high quality setting for a wide range of recreation activities". The remnants of a once booming mining community adds to the significance of this park area.

Resource management will focus on the need to maintain a natural setting for park recreational opportunities. Resource harvest activity will continue to be an important park use where it does not conflict with recreational values.

Recreational management will focus on road accessible camping and fishing opportunities. Interpretation of the mining history of the area will also be a priority. Canoeing and remote recreation experiences will also be provided.

In sum, Nopiming provides:

1. high quality sport fishing experiences;
2. parkway linkage to Whiteshell Provincial Park and dispersed points for wilderness experiences within Nopiming;
3. a network of canoe routes through a diverse landscape, offering a variety of canoeing experiences, and links into Ontario's Woodland Caribou Park and Manitoba Atikaki Wilderness Park.

4. a transition zone between the highly developed Whiteshell and the wilderness setting of Atikaki.
5. valuable natural and cultural features worthy of protection, public appreciation and interpretation (e.g. woodland caribou, now on the rare or endangered species list; early gold mine sites).

The major emphasis of Nopiming will be that of resource conservation, recreation, interpretation and low keyed commercial development.

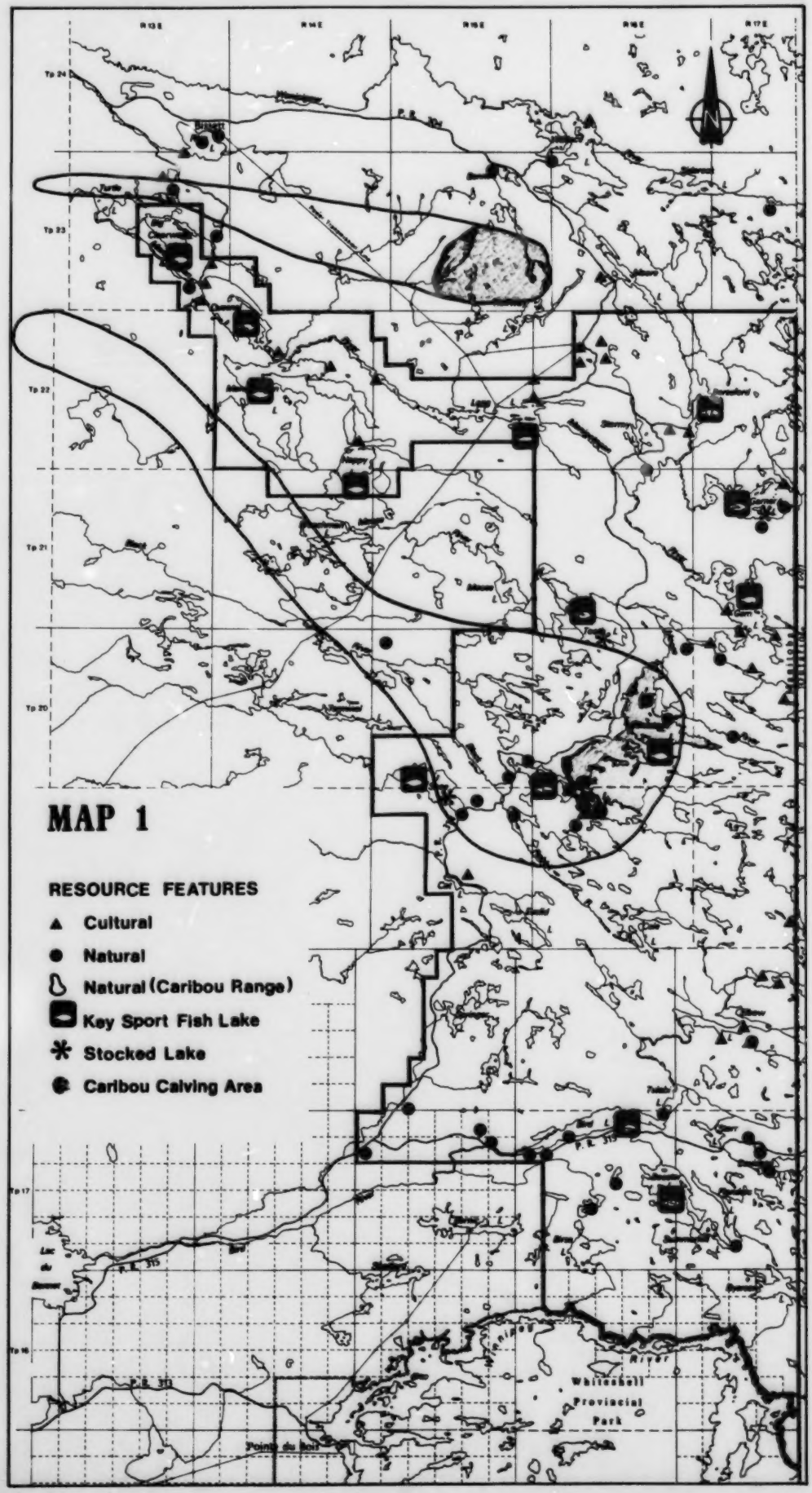
3.0 ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Since the park was established in 1976, patterns of public recreational use, commercial resource use, and access have evolved that present planning issues and concerns. It is important that these issues and concerns be identified in order to effectively address them and establish objectives and guidelines to manage and develop the park.

3.1 Natural and Cultural Resources

Sites exhibiting sensitive or representative cultural and natural features (Map 1) are only partially inventoried for the park. For example, studies are currently investigating woodland caribou habitat, range and distribution. Incomplete data do not allow for comprehensive land use allocation. Thus, a cautious, conservation-oriented approach to park development and use is warranted.

Natural spawning and nursery areas instrumental in fish stock maintenance are incompletely known at this time. As well, little is known about capacities of individual lakes to sustain sport fishing pressure. Nevertheless, certain water bodies and streams are reported to have good sport fishing capability (Map 1) and are currently heavily utilized, some at greater than the sustainable yield (Beyette 1987). It is important to protect these known areas, in order to avoid degradation of sport fishing opportunities which are central to the purpose of this park (see Appendix IV for specifics).


MAP 1
RESOURCE FEATURES
Cultural
Natural
Natural (Caribou Range)
Key Sport Fish Lake
Stocked Lake
Caribou Calving Area
Whiteshell
Provincial
Park
Twp 24
Twp 23
Twp 22
Twp 21
Twp 20
Twp 17
Twp 16

3.2 Recreation

Existing recreational infrastructure in Nopiming is shown on Map 2.

3.2.1 Waysides

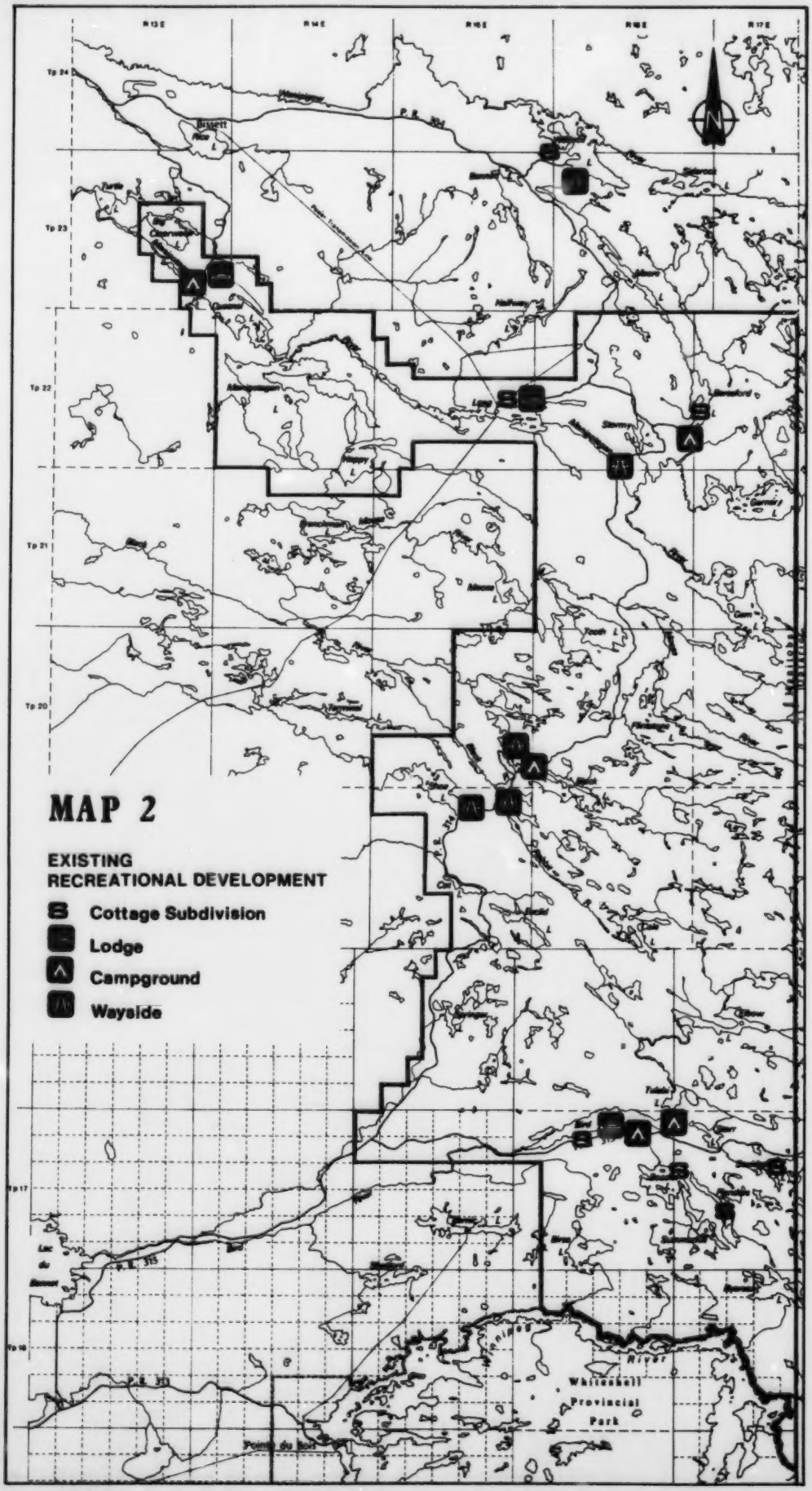
There is growing unorganized use of waysides for camping along the Nopiming Parkway. These areas are unstructured and not serviced, thus resulting in enforcement and maintenance problems and ultimately, degradation of the user experience. The 1986 park survey (MacCharles 1986) indicated a demand for isolated alternative camp sites.

3.2.2 Seasonal Camping

There are increasing number of requests for seasonal camping opportunities in the park and surrounding area. Nopiming currently has no seasonal camping sites.

3.2.3 Trails and Canoe Routes

The lack of defined hiking and interpretative trails is a concern in Nopiming. This is evidenced in part by the response to the 1986 survey and by the fact that visitors in some locations have cut their own trails to various lakes.


MAP 2
EXISTING
RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Cottage Subdivision
Lodge
Campground
Wayside
R13E
R14E
R15E
R16E
R17E
Tp 24
Tp 23
Tp 22
Tp 21
Tp 20
Tp 17
Tp 16
Whiteshell
Provincial
Park

3.2.4 Cottaging

The 1981 guidelines stated no more cottaging following development at Davidson and Flanders lakes. These lakes were leased in 1986. Public interest at past cottage lot draws indicated a demand for quality recreational lots. However, the coming into force of new park regulations relating to sewage treatment facilities and follow up inspections of existing cottages for compliance with the Environment Act warrants a cautious approach to development of cottage subdivisions.

3.2.5 Boat Caches

Since the park was designated in 1976 there have been no effective programs for managing access and boat storage on remote lakes in Nopiming. The proliferation of boat, motor and fuel caches, on remote lakes has increased substantially from 36 boats on Gem Lake in 1983 to 54 boats in 1987. Concerns relate to the long term capability of these lakes to sustain the current angling pressure, as well as to garbage, open fires and trails.

3.2.6 Visitor Information Service/Park Interpretation

Concern has been expressed over the lack of information available on Nopiming and its natural environment. The 1986 survey revealed that a high number of respondents would like more information on the park's natural environment to enhance their recreational experience. Moreover, there is a definite need to orient visitors to the limited facilities and services available.

In 1987, as a condition of approving the reprocessing of existing mine tailings in Nopiming, Parks Branch concluded the first co-operative agreement which called for the provision of visitor information by the proponent. Funding was directed to a trust fund, with the money expended on a portable resource library. The library is set up at Black Lake in summer and Lac du Bonnet School Division in winter.

3.3 Maintenance and Operations

There is a need to develop a southern maintenance and operating control base, to manage current and future recreation facilities. Lack of on-site maintenance crews is a concern in regards to response time to forest fires, servicing new developments, and protection of the park's natural and cultural resources. Concern has also been expressed about the level of maintenance to the existing, but currently unoccupied staff quarters at Shoe Lake.

3.4 Commercial Resource Use

3.4.1 Forestry

Public use of all-weather forestry roads within Nopiming is a concern. These roads provide access to previously remote areas resulting in unorganized recreational activities. This adds to clean up costs, creates a demand for facilities which may not be deniable and can adversely impact fish and wildlife. Concerns have also been expressed

relating to herbicide use to promote softwood growth. In particular, broadcast aerial spraying could adversely nearby buffer zones beyond specific target plantations.

3.4.2 Wild Rice Harvesting

Most key rice lakes are already allocated (see Appendix II). Concerns relate to unauthorized water level manipulation, indiscriminate garbage disposal, structure placement, construction of new access trails and associated impacts on recreation, wildlife and fisheries.

3.4.3 Mineral Exploration and Development

Mineral claim staking, exploration and production activities occur within the park. The work permit procedure controls these current operations. Requests for reprocessing of old tailings may impact sensitive areas. Careful case-by-case assessment will be necessary.

4.0 OBJECTIVES

A series of objectives for resource conservation and management, recreational use, and commercial resource use has been prepared. These are derived from consideration of the park's purpose and current use.

4.1 Natural and Cultural Resources

1. to identify and protect sensitive natural and cultural features.
2. to identify and protect significant fish stocks essential to maintain sport fishing opportunities.
3. to maintain the environmental quality and aesthetics of existing public recreation areas.
4. to identify and protect significant woodland caribou habitat essential to maintain the herd.

4.2 Recreation

1. to maintain waysides complementary to existing camping opportunities and serving transient park visitors on P.R. 314 (the Nopiming Parkway).
2. to identify strategic entrance points to Nopiming Provincial Park for visitor orientation and park management purposes.
3. to identify locations suitable for seasonal camping.

4. to identify needs and scheduling for sewage disposal facilities.
5. to identify public information requirements consistent with the interim nature of park developments and operations.
6. to establish and maintain canoe routes suitable for a wide range of visitors.
7. to establish a network of hiking trails coinciding with development modes.
8. to develop a program for the allocation of boat motor fuel caches primarily to commercial operators with residual capacity being available to the general public.

4.3 Maintenance and Operations

1. to develop seasonal staff quarters at Shoe Lake to facilitate servicing of the southern portion of Nopiming.
2. to identify equipment and facility infrastructure requirements for the Shoe Lake site.
3. to develop a schedule with Regional Services encompassing a program of backcountry enforcement in response to increasing demands on the natural resources.
4. to provide a storage location for maintenance and fire fighting equipment.

4.4 Commercial Resource Use

1. to control and limit public access to forestry roads.
2. to manage the seeding and harvesting of wild rice and associated infrastructure where it does not lessen future recreational use.
3. to continue to review proposals for the application of herbicides on park land according to existing Parks Policy and Procedure Directives and the requirements of Pesticide Use Regulations.
4. to review annual cutting plan proposals and forestry renewal practices for compatibility with park purposes.

5.0 GUIDELINES

5.1 Natural and Cultural Resources

A variety of sensitive natural and cultural resources are illustrated on Map 1. Also shown are important sport fishing waters. Appendix III lists some of the major cultural and natural themes and features for the park.

Guidelines: 1. Known sensitive areas such as the snake petroform at Tulabi Lake and the caribou calving islands at Flintstone Lake are identified as "closed" areas in terms of recreational or commercial resource use. The locations and nature of these features will be part of a special feature's catalogue.

2. Lakes with known value for sport fishing in the closed zone will be buffered from resource harvesting and undesired road development through the use of the permit application and review process.

3. A smallmouth bass stocking program conducted by Fisheries Branch has proven successful at Tooth, Shoe and Black Lake. Additional stocking will be conducted at Big Clearwater Lake. Fisheries Branch will also identify fish habitats essential to the maintenance and improvement of the walleye fishery. High quality trophy management principles and regulations will be employed at Shoe, Gem, and Black Lakes. (See Appendix IV

for lake management strategies and recommendations).

4. Woodland caribou ranges will be buffered from resource harvesting and intensive recreational development based on research data being collected on the Owl Lake herd component of the woodland caribou study. Flintstone Lake has been identified as a non-motorized zone in order to protect the existing caribou calving areas. (see Appendix I).
5. A special features catalogue will be developed, to identify unique natural and cultural sites in Nopiming.

5.2 Recreation

5.2.1 Transient Camping

Expansion of some of the current opportunities is required in selected areas of the Park to handle added weekend pressure. Smaller scale, more primitive camping facilities are in demand. The primary criteria used in identifying new campsite locations relate to the visitor preferences as suggested by the 1986 Visitor Survey results. Respondents indicated that they wanted access from campsites to canoe routes and hiking trails. Access to sport fish lakes is an important siting factor as well.

Guidelines: 1. A redevelopment plan will be initiated for Tulabi Lake increasing the capacity for quality walk-in campsites as well as drive-in sites. The objective will be to

increase the capacity of Tulabi campground from 34 units to 75 units.

2. A 15 car designated parking site, an information kiosk and a remote campsite will be established for the Seagrim Lake chain.

5.2.2 Seasonal Camping

Guidelines: 1. Opportunities for seasonal camping will be expanded at Bird Lake in conjunction with expanded transient development at Tulabi Lake.

5.2.3 Trails and Canoe Routes

Guidelines: 1. Canoe routes have been established on the Manigotagan, Bird, and Rabbit River waterways (Appendix I). Route expansion and access development will be investigated on the Garner River for possible links with existing canoe routes into Woodland Caribou Park in Ontario, and subsequent linkage in Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park in Manitoba.

2. A trail head and brochure will be developed for the Seagrim canoe system.

3. A Self-guided hiking trail will be developed at Black Lake.

5.2.4 Cottaging

Guidelines: 1. As per previous guidelines there will be no increase in the number of cottage lots in Nopiming Provincial Park.

2. Lac Du Bonnet and Wanipigow Lakes are recommended as alternative cottaging areas outside the park (Appendix I).

3. Sewage treatment facilities will be upgraded to comply with the requirements of Manitoba Environment.

5.2.5 Visitor Information Service/Interpretation

Guidelines: 1. Formal entrance reception areas will be established.

2. A Nopiming Park brochure will be prepared to provide the visitor with background information on the park.

3. Co-operative agreements such as that concluded between Ausgold Recovery systems Ltd. and Parks Branch in 1987 will be established for major resource extraction projects in the parks. Funding will be used to enhance visitor information as appropriate for the development.

4. Development of a similar co-operative agreement between Abitibi-Price Ltd. and Parks Branch will be investigated as well.

5.3 Maintenance and Operations

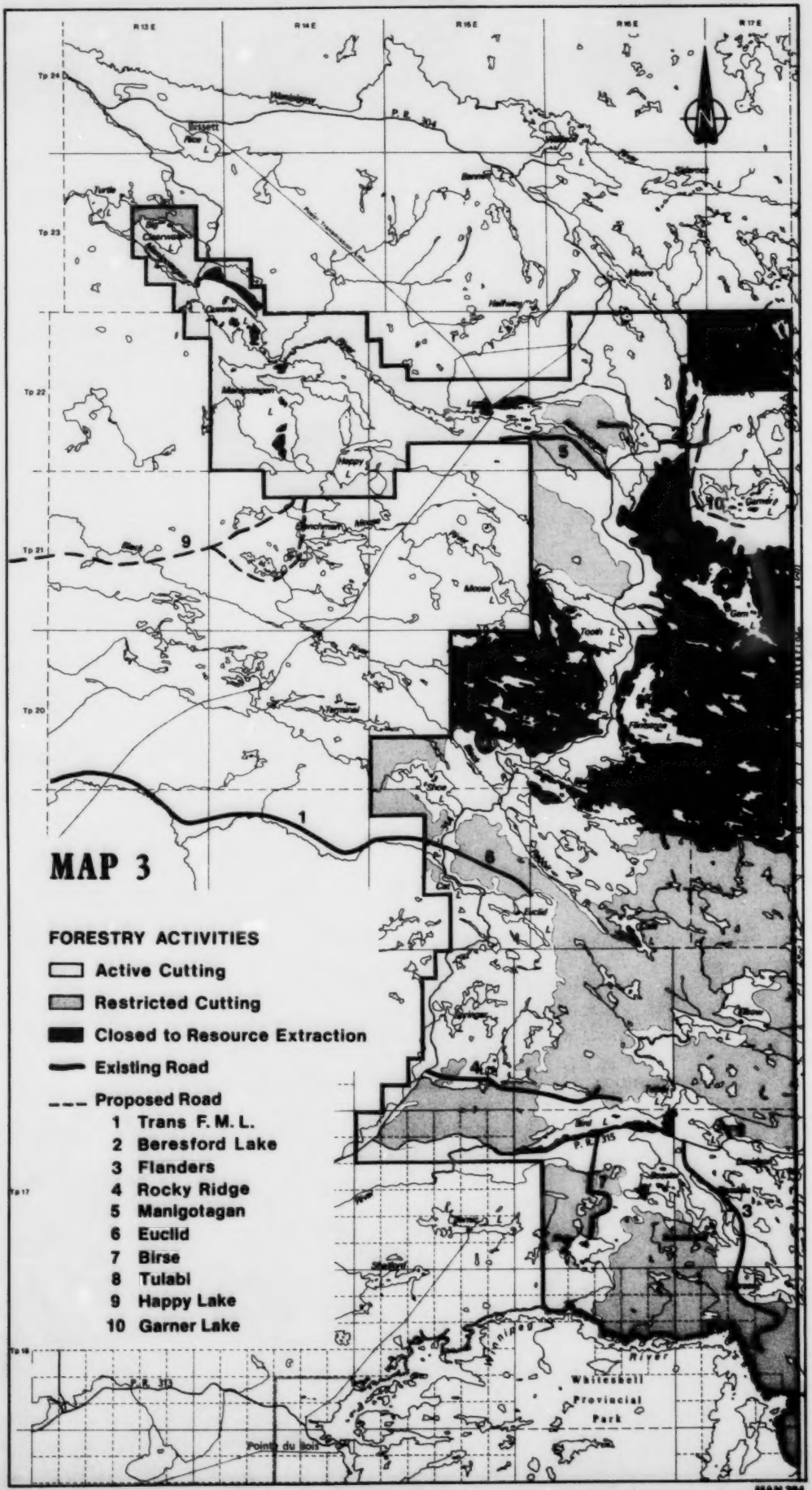
Guidelines: 1. A 2 man park patrol summer base operation will be developed at Shoe Lake.

5.4 Commercial Resource Use

5.4.1 Forestry

Abitibi-Price holds a Forest Management License which covers the Nopiming Park area. The annual allowable cut by the company within the park is calculated on the basis of established guidelines (Mazur 1975). Abitibi-Price has constructed eight major access roads in the park (Map 3). These are:

1. Trans F.M.L. road, from P.R. 304, north of Pine Falls to P.R. 314 approximately 1 mile north of Cat Lake;
2. Beresford Lake road, from P.R. 314 to a cutting area on the east side of lake;
3. Flanders Lake road, from P.R. 315 south to Eaglenest Lake;
4. Rocky Ridge road, from P.R. 314 east to cutting areas north of Bird Lake;
5. Manigotagan River road, southwest of Stormy Lake, and south of Long Lake.
6. Euclid Lake road, running off the Trans F.M.L. road, just north of Euclid Lake, east of P.R. 314.
7. Birse Lake road, from P.R. 315 south to Birse Lake;
8. Tulabi Lake road, from P.R. 315 north to cutting areas in the vicinity of Tulabi Lake.


R13E
R14E
R15E
R16E
R17E
Tp 24
Tp 23
Tp 22
Tp 21
Tp 20
Tp 17
Tp 16
P.R. 304
P.R. 313
P.R. 315
Whiteshell
Provincial
Park
Pointe du Bois
MAP 3
FORESTRY ACTIVITIES
Active Cutting
Restricted Cutting
Closed to Resource Extraction
Existing Road
Proposed Road
1 Trans F. M. L.
2 Beresford Lake
3 Flanders
4 Rocky Ridge
5 Manigotagan
6 Euclid
7 Birse
8 Tulabi
9 Happy Lake
10 Garner Lake
MAN 394

In future, two additional roads are proposed (Map 3).

9. Happy Lake road, running just south of Manigotagan and Happy Lakes.
10. Garner Lake road.

An additional 25 approaches are located on P.R. 314, primarily in the areas south of Cat Lake and north of the Manigotagan River to the Long Lake Junction. The majority of these are forestry-related, although some have been constructed to facilitate mineral exploration.

Prohibition of public access is contrary to the Abitibi-Price Forest Management License although, other than for their own access requirements, the company has no concerns regarding road restrictions that are required by Parks Branch. There is also provision within the license agreement that land may be withdrawn for park purposes.

Guidelines:

1. Present commitments to forestry operations are acknowledged and will be maintained.
2. Certain areas of the park will be "closed" to forest extraction.
3. Boundaries/buffer shall be established around sensitive/unique features, along the parkway, canoe routes and around water bodies presently used for recreation.

4. Conditions relating to forestry operations will be established by means of departmental work permits.
5. The Trans F.M.L. road (Map 3) is acknowledged as the third major park entrance and will be signed accordingly.
6. The Beresford Lake, Flanders Lake (at a jointly designated site), Rocky Ridge, Euclid and Manigotagan River roads (Map 3) shall be closed to public access.
7. In designated plantations manual stand improvements will be encouraged. In areas where this cannot occur, requests for ground application of pesticides is preferred to aerial application. All such proposed pesticide use requests will be reviewed with existing Parks Branch Policy and Procedures and will require obtaining a Pesticide Use Permit from Manitoba Environment.

5.4.2 Wild Rice Harvesting

Lakes within Nopiming Provincial Park which are capable of wild rice production (Appendix II) are currently held by individuals, or groups/communities. Several other applications for licences are also pending.

The problem of placement and use of storage sheds is a concern. This is due to a lack of conditions of construction and subsequent enforcement of same. Although a Parks Branch General Permit is required prior to the commencement of any activities to be

conducted on parklands, this fact is not clearly stated on the Wild Rice Licence. In addition, there is no provision to withdraw a Licence for park purposes should a conflict be demonstrated with production/harvesting activities.

A proposed policy respecting the building and use of structures associated with wild rice activities is being drafted and will be discussed with the Wild Rice Farmers Association for implementation in 1989. The current conditions are shown in Appendix II.

Guidelines: 1. For those licenses located within parklands, a Work Permit, with associated conditions currently being finalized shall be made a schedule to the lease. This will allow for lease cancellation if there is a violation of permit conditions, and provide the right to withdraw a Licence.

5.4.3 Mineral Exploration

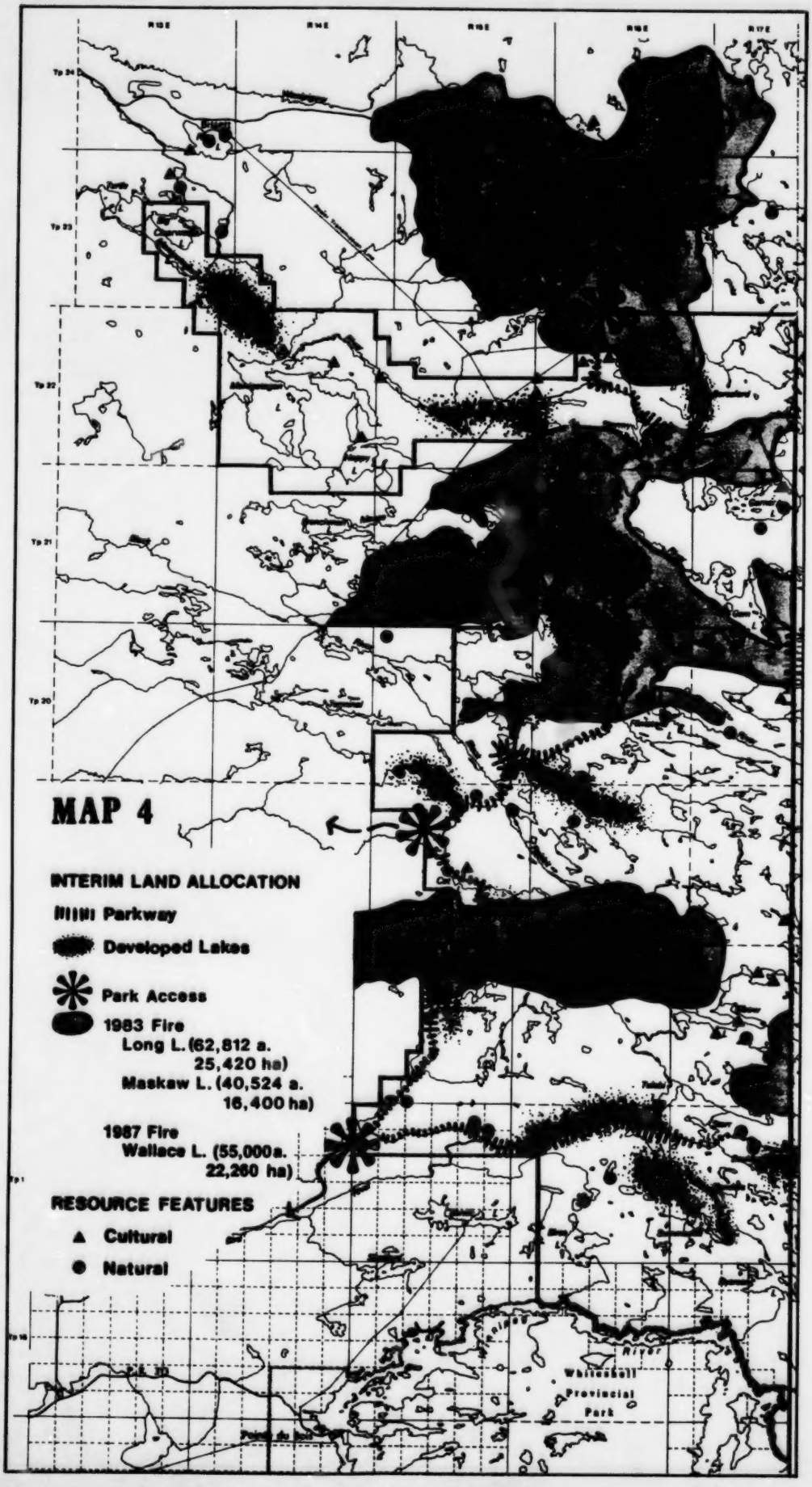
Mineral exploration is currently widespread in Nopiming and vicinity. The location of these activities and, in particular, line cutting, access and road construction, work camp establishment and timing of operations are all of concern. These are currently regulated by a work permit procedure enforced by Regional Services.

Guidelines: 1. To continue and expand the operation and monitoring of compliance with work permit conditions.

6.0 INTERIM LAND ALLOCATION

The interim land allocation map (Map 4) summarizes and supplements the guidelines. This map confirms those roadway corridors and entrance points that will be used for general public access for the interim period. Also illustrated are present concentrations of park use and facilities and the location and extent of special features that will be protected from encroachment. The areas burned by the 1983 Long Lake and Maskwa fires, as well as the 1987 Wallace Lake fire are portrayed.

The incomplete knowledge of the park area is reflected in the land-use classification of park land. A cautious, approach to opening up undesignated areas of the park will be followed. The land allocation map, is intended to convey the limited extent to which the Director of Parks, is prepared to commit to park development and use, prior to a management plan being adopted.


MAP 4
INTERIM LAND ALLOCATION
Parkway
Developed Lakes
Park Access
1983 Fire
Long L. (62,812 a.
25,420 ha)
Maskaw L. (40,524 a.
16,400 ha)
1987 Fire
Wallace L. (55,000a.
22,260 ha)
RESOURCE FEATURES
Cultural
Natural
Whiteshell
Provincial
Park

SELECTED REFERENCES

Beyette, J. 1987. Angler Creel Census in Nopiming Provincial Park on Shoe, Black, and Gem Lakes During The Summer of 1987. Manitoba Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Branch. Beausejour.

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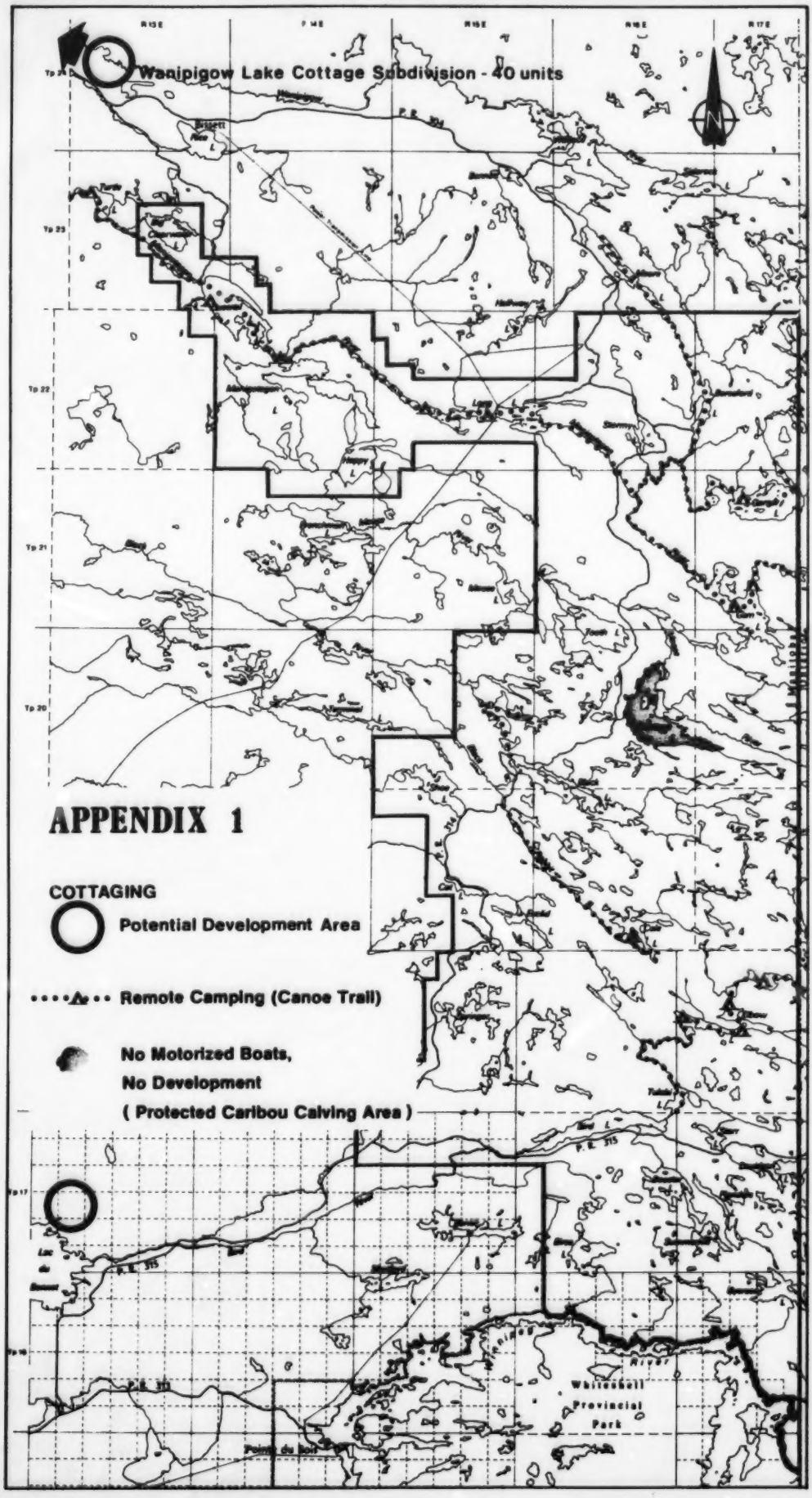
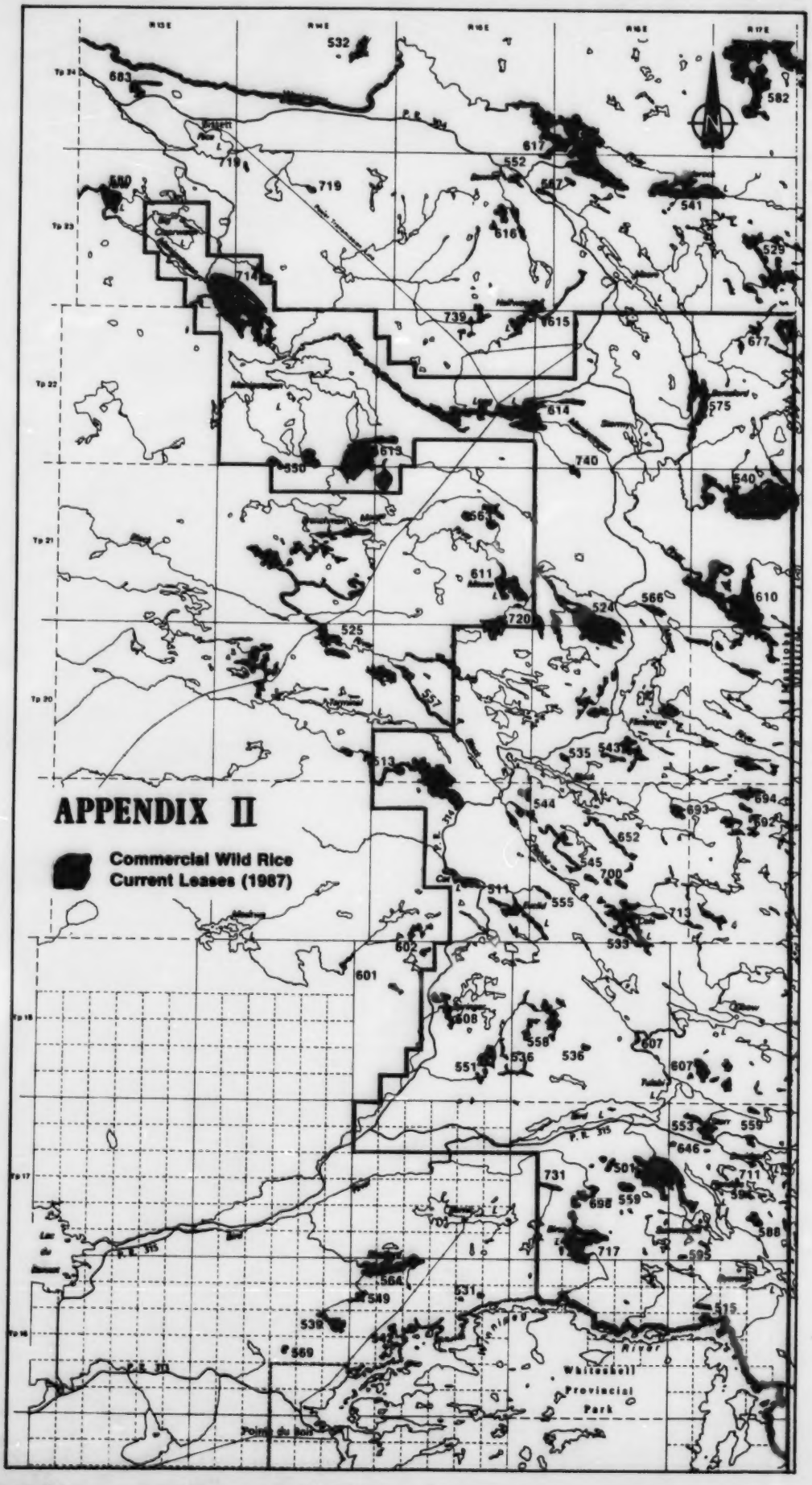
APPENDIX I

POTENTIAL COTTAGING, REMOTE CAMPING AND PROTECTED CARIBOU CALVING AREA


Wanipigow Lake Cottage Subdivision - 40 units
APPENDIX 1
COTTAGING
Potential Development Area
Remote Camping (Canoe Trail)
No Motorized Boats,
No Development
(Protected Caribou Calving Area)
Whiteshell
Provincial
Park

APPENDIX II

WILD RICE


APPENDIX II
Commercial Wild Rice
Current Leases (1987)
Whitesand
Provincial
Park
Point du Bois

SPECIAL CONDITIONS - WILD RICE LEASES IN PROVINCIAL PARKS

These conditions are currently being reviewed. A formal policy is being finalized for implementation in 1989 following discussions with the Wild Rice Farmers Association.

1. Use/occupancy of the area under lease is restricted to wild rice activities.

2. Access shall be limited to existing travelways wherever possible. Construction/ establishment of new travelways or alteration of existing travelways is prohibited, unless there is prior approval by Parks Branch.

3. Location of accommodation and storage structures will require a permit from Parks Branch. Site selection will be approved by the local Park Ranger.

4. Garbage shall be packaged and removed to a designated garbage pit or land-fill site approved by the local Park Ranger.

5. Existing water control structures or natural levels shall not be altered or changed in any way. Construction/establishment of new water control structures shall be allowed only with a Water Rights Licence following thorough review.

6. Signing shall be limited to one sign at the landing site indicating the nature of the lease.

7. Open fires or burning shall not be allowed unless a Fire Permit, issued under the authority of The Fire Prevention Act, is obtained from the local Park Ranger prior to the commencement of operations in the park.

8. Upon termination of operations, the Lessee shall contact the local Park Ranger (name and location) for final inspection of the work area.

9. Daily operations shall be consistent with the primary recreational objectives of Provincial Parks and shall be subject to conditions of all appropriate Acts and Regulations as may be imposed, on behalf of the Director of Parks, by the Senior District Supervisors.

10. The Senior District Supervisor, on behalf of the Director of Parks, will be provided with the authority to recommend termination of an operation if the operator does not abide by these special conditions of operations.

11. Should any portion of the leased area be required for park development, the Assistant Deputy Minister or his designate the Director of Parks shall notify the Lessee, in writing, either six months or one production season prior to intended development and any rights granted therein shall be rescinded without compensation.

APPENDIX III

DATA BASE - NOPIMING PROVINCIAL PARK

DATA BASE - NOPIMING PROVINCIAL PARK

A. MAJOR CULTURAL THEMES AND FEATURES

(1) Palaeo-Indian Horizon: 7,000 - 6,000 B.C.
- Presence is indicated by archaeological finds at Caribou Lake.

(2) Archaic Indian Horizon: 6,000 - 500 B.C.

(a) Shield Archaic Culture - 4,000 - 3,000 B.C.
- Presence is assumed here due to evidence found in the Whiteshell.

(b) Old Copper Culture: 3,000 - 1,000 B.C.
- Copper implements found along Winnipeg River.
- Rock painting on Long Lake may be Old Copper in origin.

(c) Oxbow Culture - 3,000 - 500 B.C.

(d) Whiteshell Culture - 3,000 - 500 B.C.

(e) Larter Culture - 1,500 - 500 B.C.

(3) Woodland Horizon: 500 B.C. - Contact
- Distinguished from previous horizon by the presence of ceramics.

(a) Laurel Culture - 500 B.C. - 800 A.D.
- Made ceramics using the coil method.

(b) Blackduck Culture - 800 - 1450 A.D.
- Believed to be prehistoric form of Ojibway.
- Used a cord wrapped stick to decorate the rim or ceramic vessel.

(c) Selkirk Culture - 1100 - 1800 A.D.
- Believed to be prehistoric Cree culture.

(4) Contact and Post Contact Settlement

(a) 1670 - First influence of white culture on natives.

(b) 1730 - Assiniboine occupied Nopiming area.

(c) 1731 - La Verendrye built Fort Maurepas at mouth of Winnipeg River. He probably contacted Assiniboine on the Winnipeg River.

(d) 1793 - Fort Alexander built on site of Fort Maurepas at mouth of Winnipeg River.

(e) 1800 - Saulteaux moved into the Nopiming area from Ontario.

(f) 1820 - Cree abandoned area to hunt buffalo in the grasslands to the west.

(g) 1821 - Merger of Hudson Bay Company and North West Company resulted in decreased use of Winnipeg River.

(h) 1881 - Nopiming region incorporated into the Province of Manitoba.

(i) 1885 - Gold discovered at the mouth of the Winnipeg River.

(j) 1800's (late) - Logging and saw mill operations began along the shore of Lake Winnipeg.

(k) 1906 - The first hydro-electric plant on Winnipeg River was built at Pinawa.

(l) 1911 - E.A. Pelletier staked three important claims at Rice Lake: The Gabrielle, The Rachel, and The San Antonio.

(m) 1922 - A road was built from Upper Wanipigow to Caribou (Quesnel) Lake.

(n) 1927 - 1937 - Central Manitoba Mines produced 160,000 ounces of gold.

(o) 1932 - 1968 - San Antonio Gold Mines produced 1,200,000 ounces of gold.

(p) 1933 - Air mail service began in the area.

(q) 1939 - Canada Airways had daily flight service to Bissett.

(r) 1955 - The last hydro-electric plant to be built on the Winnipeg River was completed at McArthur Falls.

(s) 1969 - Tantalum Corporation of Canada began operation of North America's first tantalum mine at Bernic Lake.
- Dumbarton Mines Ltd. started to mine the copper/nickel deposits in the Cat Lake area.

(t) 1976 - Nopiming area officially designated as provincial park lands.

B. NATURAL HISTORY THEMES AND FEATURES

(1) Climate

The nearest recording station is at Bissett. Average annual precipitation is 508 - 558 mm with May to September precipitation 304 - 355 mm. The number of frost-free days is 110 - 120 with the last spring frost May 25 - 30. January mean daily temperature is -18° C and July mean daily temperature is +19° C.

(2) Hydrology

Nopiming lies within the Nelson River drainage basin. Local drainage involves three river systems: Manigotagan River system, Bird River system, and Winnipeg River system.

(3) Physiography

Rugged Precambrian Shield underlies the landscape. The area is relatively flat with extensive rock outcrops 5 to 30 m above the surroundings. Stream channels and drainage patterns are poorly developed resulting in large areas of poor drainage.

(4) Soils

Organic soils dominate the poorly drained wetlands. Rock outcrops have little soil development. Elsewhere, soil development varies with the depth of the overlying glacial clay, sand or gravel deposits that cover bedrock. Podzols occur on the better drained sites with gleysols where drainage is poorer.

(5) Vegetation

Nopiming lies within the boreal forest region of Canada. Frequent fires greatly influence the vegetation. The major tree species are jack pine, black spruce, tumbling aspen and tamarack. Broadly speaking, three major mature forest types dominate the park. Jack pine forest covers over 40%, particularly on the thin soils where rock is near the surface and fires are frequent. Trembling aspen forest covers about 10% of the park's surface on the better developed and better drained lowland soils. Black spruce bogs, often with tamarack, grow on the poorly drained organic soils.

(6) Woodland Caribou

Nopiming still supports a small but significant population of woodland caribou. The Flintstone Lake are is of particular importance to the herd for calving. Studies are currently underway to better delineate the location and importance of various areas to the herd.

APPENDIX IV

ANGLER CREEL CENSUS IN NOPIMING PROVINCIAL PARK ON SHOE, BLACK AND GEM LAKES DURING THE SUMMER OF 1987

ANGLER CREEL CENSUS IN NOPIMING PROVINCIAL PARK ON SHOE, BLACK AND GEM LAKES DURING THE SUMMER OF 1987

Fisheries management in Nopiming Provincial Park has been limited to some stocking of bass and walleye as well as monitoring stocks in a few selected lakes. With anglers using these lakes in ever-increasing numbers as angling quality declines in other more accessible areas, it is imperative that resource management be clear in its direction and purpose. The resource values identified by the 1987 angler survey indicate a level of use and an economic importance that must be addressed by sound planning for maintenance and improvement of these fisheries. There are several techniques that can control harvest and therefore maintain quality in these lakes. Some of these may be: control access via trails and parking facilities, control boat caches, reduce limits, restrict size. As a first step, however, it is necessary to firmly identify levels of long term objectives of this park. Once these are firmly established management alternatives to reach these objectives can be determined on a lake by lake basis.

SPECIFIC LAKE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ALTERNATIVES

Shoe Lake

Reduced walleye and pike limits came into effect in 1987 as high quality management was initiated at Shoe Lake. The walleye harvest by itself accounts for 59% of the mean sustainable yield (MSY). In 1981, 350,000 walleye fry were stocked. The first evidence of walleye spawning showed up in 1987 during the creel census. This is encouraging, but the degree of spawning success is still unknown. It may turn out that a limit of four is still too high to maintain a walleye fishery on top of the bass stocks. The bass harvest exceeds the MSY by more than 400 kg itself. The present level of exploitation cannot be maintained.

Harvest level in 1987: 4427 kg
MSY of lake: 1915 kg
Harvest level for high quality lake (15% of MSY): 287 kg

ALTERNATIVES 1. Make no changes. Re-evaluate the lake in 1990 to see if walleye are spawning in sufficient numbers to maintain or improve stocks

2. Since 29% of walleye retained were smaller than 35 cm, re-evaluate the lake in 1990. Set a minimum size for walleye of 35 cm. This would allow the sub-adults to reach maturity, therefore making a contribution to the stocks before being harvested.

3. Reduce the bass limit to 2. This would reduce the harvest on the lake by as much as 20% and give some of the adults a chance to attain trophy size since less than 2% of retained bass were over 40 cm. Note: This alternative may increase pressure on walleye stocks through added competition.

4. Set a minimum size for smallmouth bass of 30 cm. Since 49% of the bass retained were smaller than this size, the harvest of bass would be reduced to 1144 kg.

5. All organized derbies on this lake must be non-consumptive catch-and-release, barbless competition.

Black Lake

The present level of exploitation is more pressure than the lake can sustain. Harvest in 1987 accounted for 67% of the MSY. Optimum sustainable yield for a moderate quality fishery is 45% of the MSY. It may be possible, after an evaluation of spawning areas, to improve walleye spawning success in the lake. Test netting in October 1987 revealed the presence of master angler sized walleye (two of which were weighed and released) but also showed a shortage of small walleye indicating a possible recruitment problem. The smallest walleye in the survey was 23.9 cm. Similarly, the smallest walleye netted was 24.6 cm. By contrast, young of the year and yearling walleye were quite evident in the test netting at Gem Lake.

Harvest level in 1987: 1676 kg
MSY of lake: 2513 kg
Harvest level for a moderate quality lake (45% of MSY): 1131 kg

Harvest breakdown: northern pike - 54%
walleye - 39%

ALTERNATIVES 1. Do nothing at present and re-evaluate the lake in 1992.

2. Evaluate the spawning habitat for walleye. Since no young of the year or yearling walleye were captured in the test nets, improvement in spawning habitat may be enough to boost the production through more successful spawning.

3. Evaluate water levels in respect to walleye spawning.

4. All derbies on this lake must be non-consumptive, catch-and-release barbless competition.

Gem Lake

The harvest in 1988 was 156% of the calculated MSY. In order to maintain a moderate quality fishery, only 45% of the MSY is recommended. A high quality fishery requires limiting the take to no more than 15% of the MSY. For the 1988/89 season, high quality management limits will apply. We estimate this will only reduce the harvest by 60%. The reduced opportunity to fish for consumption may reduce the number of anglers. This amount of reduction has not been estimated.

The following estimates can be derived from the 1987 angler survey data for Gem Lake:

156% of the MSY was harvested.
4800 kg of walleye were harvested in 1987.
MSY of the lake is 3436 kg.
15% of the MSY is 515 kg.
Walleye catch per angler hour was 1.04.
60% of all anglers took home more than 4 walleye.
90% of the harvest was walleye.
94% of the pike and perch caught were released.
Anglers fished for 9937 hours in 1987.
Mean daily effort was 78.24 angler hours.
As many as 60 boats were cached during 1987.
As many as 17 vehicles were in the parking lot at one time.
78% of the vehicles were recorded only once.
Gem Lake yield for 1987 was 6.39 kg/ha.

Using the above estimates one could imagine that for each day of the 127-day fishing season, four boats were on the water for 6.5 hours, each containing 3 anglers. They would have caught 1.04 walleye per angler - hour and released 49% of them. Each fish retained weighed 880 gm. Each angler would have kept 3.59 walleye per day including shore lunches.

Maintaining a high quality fishery on Gem Lake would require a reduction of harvest to 515 kg. or 585 walleye since harvest on high quality lakes should not exceed 15% of the MSY. This effort would translate to a total of only 146 angler-days at full limits. Assuming four boats with three anglers each day (fishing for only 2 days during the week and 2 days during weekends with each fisherman harvesting 3.59 fish per day would result in the "MSY quota" being taken in less than 4 weeks. If fishing were 7 days a week at these levels, the "quota" would be reached in 15 days. If 60 boats were used, the 'quota' would be reached in one day.

Maintaining a moderate quality fishery where 45% of the MSY is harvested would lengthen the above calculated periods by a factor of 3.

ALTERNATIVES 1. Monitor fishing pressure to see what impact the reduced limits have on the number of boats that are cached. It is imperative that a high level of enforcement be instituted until anglers realize that over harvest will not be permitted.

2. Control the number of boats cached.

3. Set a minimum size of 35 cm or set slot size limits for walleye.

4. Institute a 'barbless only' regulation to reduce hooking mortality.

5. Disallow <u>all</u> derbies on this lake.

It is well known that a lake which becomes accessible will provide an excellent fishing opportunity for a limited period of time before the stocks decline. The 1987 angler survey on Gem Lake indicates that with prompt protective action a high quality fishery can still be maintained.